

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 151573 TOSEC 070036
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 CCO-00 /018 R

DRAFTED BY PA:TRESTON:MAD

APPROVED BY PA:TRESTON

S/S-O - MR. CASTRODALE

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

PA, PA/PRESS, S/S-O

-----062041 150013Z /14

P 142329Z JUN 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 151573 TOSEC 070036

FOR CARTER FROM RESTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: NOON PRESS BRIEFING, TUESDAY, JUNE 13

1. THE BRIEFING OF JUNE 13 WAS LENGTHY AND DOMINATED BY EXTREMELY CLOSE QUESTIONING ABOUT CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN THE RECENT INVASION OF SHABA, AND FIDEL CASTRO'S DENIALS THEREOF. THE SPOKESMAN TOOK THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: "LAST NIGHT IN HAVANA CUBAN PRESIDENT CASTRO INTERVIEWED WITH SEVERAL REPORTERS. AMONG OTHER THINGS HE SAID THAT ON MAY 19, TWO DAYS AFTER A MEETING WITH THE U.S. HEAD OF THE INTERESTS SECTION, LYLE LANE, HE RECEIVED A REPLY FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING FROM SECRETARY VANCE HIS APPRECIATION AT WHAT CASTRO HAD SAID AND MAKING CERTAIN OTHER REMARKS. CAN YOU CONFIRM TO US THAT THIS MESSAGE WAS FROM SECRETARY VANCE AND CAN YOU TELL US WHAT IT SAID?"

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 151573 TOSEC 070036

2. THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ANSWER: "OUR INTERESTS SECTION IN HAVANA DID CONVEY TO VICE MINISTER ANILLO A STRAIGHTFORWARD MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY VANCE FOR THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER. THIS MESSAGE DID NOT STATE OR IMPLY THAT WE ACCEPTED THE CUBAN CLAIM OF TOTAL NON-INVOLVEMENT. THE MESSAGE DID NOT EVEN REFER TO CLAIMS THAT

CUBA HAD TRIED TO PREVENT THE INVASION. AFTER SAYING THAT WE WERE PLEASED TO NOTE CASTRO'S ASSURANCES, THE MESSAGE

SAID CLEARLY THAT CUBAN INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE VIEWED WITH THE GRAVEST CONCERN. IT EXPRESSED ALSO OUR SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE KATANGAN ATTACK AND THE SAFETY OF FOREIGNERS IN SHABA, AND STATED WE HOPED CASTRO SHARED THIS SAME CONCERN AND WOULD ACT ACCORDINGLY."

3. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO TOOK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:
"COULD I JUST ADD AN AMPLIFICATION TO THAT PARTICULAR QUESTION? THERE ARE DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF WHAT HE SAID THERE, BUT WAS THERE A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AT A HIGH LEVEL TO MR. CASTRO THAT WEEK?

THERE SEEMS TO BE AN INDICATION THAT THAT MESSAGE ACTUALLY WAS SENT PRIOR TO MR. CASTRO'S MEETING WITH MR. LANE.

AND WAS THERE A MEETING BY A U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN NEW YORK WITH MR. RODRIGUEZ, THE CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT, ON OR ABOUT MAY 18 OR 19, IN WHICH COMMENTS WERE MADE PRAISING OR EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF THE CUBAN ROLE VIS-A-VIS THE SHABA BUSINESS?"

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 151573 TOSEC 070036

4. DEPARTMENT PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS: "CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ, WHO REPRESENTED HIS GOVERNMENT AT THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD), ARRIVED IN NEW YORK AFTER MAY 23. AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET WITH MR. RODRIGUEZ ON MAY 24. ON MAY 25 SECRETARY VANCE, ALSO IN NEW YORK TO ATTEND THE SSOD, MET WITH MR. RODRIGUEZ.

AT EACH OF THESE MEETINGS DISCUSSIONS COVERED A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, OF WHICH SHABA WAS ONE. U.S. CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN SHABA WAS EXPRESSED. NO COMMENTS WERE MADE THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS 'PRAISE OR APPRECIATION OF THE CUBAN ROLE VIS-A-VIS THE SHABA BUSINESS.' "

5. THERE ALSO WERE REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY THE PRESS CORPS TO GET DEFINITION OF "RECENT" IN THE CONTEXT OF CUBAN TRAINING OF KATANGANS. THE SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO REFINES FURTHER PREVIOUS DEFINITIONS GIVEN AT THE BRIEFINGS.

6. ON THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON, SPOKESMAN PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE: "THE ISRAELIS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON TODAY AS

THEY HAVE SAID THEY WOULD. WE WELCOME THIS DEVELOPMENT.

AS WE HAVE NOTED BEFORE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS,

UNIFIL IS CARRYING OUT ITS DIFFICULT MISSION SKILLFULLY AND EFFECTIVELY. BUT WE ARE STILL GETTING REPORTS IN FROM THE FIELD TODAY, AND WE DO NOT HAVE FULL REPORTS YET. UNTIL WE GET FULL REPORTS ON EXACTLY WHAT THE SITUATION IS, WE WILL HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT AT THIS TIME."

6. THE SPOKESMAN TOOK AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A DEFENSE OF USINT HAVANA BY SAYING THE FOLLOWING: "IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 151573 TOSEC 070036

WITH ALL GOVERNMENTS, WHETHER WE APPROVE OF THEM OR THEIR POLICIES.

OUR INTERESTS SECTION IN HAVANA HAS BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL IN MAINTAINING CONTACTS WITH THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT AND IN REACHING EXPEDITIOUS SOLUTIONS TO THOSE PROBLEMS THAT INEVITABLY ARISE BETWEEN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF THE STATE OF THEIR RELATIONS.

THE PRESENCE OF THE INTERESTS SECTION, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS NOT ONLY PERMITTED A GREATER DEGREE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT, BUT IT HAS HELPED TO FACILITATE THE SOLUTION TO A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS INVOLVING U.S. CITIZENS, SUCH AS THIS ONE."

7. THE SPOKESMAN GAVE A FACTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ARREST OF AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN IN MOSCOW.

8. ADDRESSING THE STATUS OF THE MBFR TALKS IN VIENNA, SPOKESMAN SAID THE FOLLOWING: "THE SOVIETS AND OTHER WARSAW PACT PARTICIPANTS IN THESE TALKS ON MUTUALLY BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS OFFERED NEW PROPOSALS LAST WEEK IN RESPONSE TO A MAJOR NEGOTIATING INITIATIVE WHICH WE AND OUR ALLIES TABLED IN VIENNA IN APRIL. WE AND OUR ALLIES ARE STUDYING THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSALS CAREFULLY.

THE NEGOTIATING POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES DIFFERS SUBSTANTIALLY ON A NUMBER OF KEY POINTS, AND IT IS NOT YET CLEAR THAT THE WAY IS OPENED TO MOVE TOWARD AN AGREEMENT RESULTING IN REAL PARITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE AT LOWER FORCE LEVELS.

IF THE PROPOSALS OF THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 151573 TOSEC 070036

ARE AN INDICATION OF THE FLEXIBILITY THAT WILL BE NEEDED TO MOVE THE TALKS FORWARD, HOWEVER, THAT WOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE UNITED STATES AND BY OTHER NATO PARTICIPANTS IN THESE TALKS.

LET ME SAY THAT THE WARSAW PACT PARTICIPANTS IN THESE TALKS ASSERT THAT MANPOWER PARITY ALREADY EXISTS AND THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED ON THAT BASIS TO REDUCE FORCES MORE OR LESS EQUALLY.

IN FACT, HOWEVER, ALL OBJECTIVE ESTIMATES SHOW THAT THE WARSAW PACT HAS A VERY LARGE MANPOWER ADVANTAGE IN THE AREA OF FORCE REDUCTIONS.

WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING MANPOWER DATA FOR SOME TIME IN THE TALKS TO TRY TO REACH A COMMON UNDERSTANDING ABOUT FORCE DEFINITIONS AND FORCE LEVELS AS A BASIS FOR REDUCTION. A RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM IS AN ESSENTIAL STEP IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT." CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE151573
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TRESTON:MAD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780249-0323
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780659/aaaabynp.tel
Line Count: 194
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f273e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2348144
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOON PRESS BRIEFING, TUESDAY, JUNE 13
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f273e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014